

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 07796 192005Z  
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05  
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05  
SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01  
DOE-15 STRE-00 /124 W  
-----047292 192014Z /61

P 191904Z MAY 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9918  
INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 07796

USMTN

STR FOR ACTION

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, JM  
SUBJECT: MAY 24 US/JAMAICAN TRADE BILATERAL  
REF: STATE 127168

1. MTN DEL (SHELLEY) MET WITH ACTING HEAD OF JAMAICAN MISSION IN GENEVA (ROY MATTAR) TO DISCUSS CANCELLED VISIT OF U.S. DEL TO KINGSTON (REFTEL). MATTAR'S ORIGINAL PLANS WERE TO LEAVE GENEVA ON MONDAY, MAY 22, TO ATTEND KINGSTON MEETINGS. MTN DEL WILL CONTACT JAMAICAN DEL TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF CHANGING MEETING TO WASHINGTON.

2. MATTAR, WHO IS NOT A GATT OR MTN EXPERT, WANTED TO GO OVER ISSUES LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED IN KINGSTON EMPHASIZING THOSE AREAS OF MTN IN WHICH HE SEES JAMAICA'S GREATEST INTEREST. WITH REGARD TO THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 07796 192005Z

U.S. OFFER, MATTAR WOULD APPRECIATE, FOR THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF KINGSTON OFFICIALS, A PRESENTATION OF THE BENEFITS THE U.S. OFFER GIVES TO EXPORTS FROM JAMAICA. MTN DEL HAS GONE THROUGH U.S. OFFER WITH MATTAR IN GENEVA UTILIZING COMPUTER ANALYSIS PREVIOUSLY SENT TO WASHINGTON. JAMAICAN GENEVA DEL HAS FEW RECENT TRADE STATISTICS AND HAS BEEN RELYING SOLELY ON

U.S. SUPPLIED FIGURES. MATTAR ALSO EXPECTS TO GO THROUGH JAMAICAN REQUESTS OF U.S. MATTAR HAS A BUSINESS BACKGROUND AND IS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OF SEVERAL INDUSTRIES IN JAMAICA. MATTAR INDICATED THAT IF JAMAICA IS TO MAKE ANY ADDITIONAL REQUESTS OF THE U.S., HE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT SUCH REQUESTS BE READY BY THE TIME OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

3. WITH REGARD TO JAMAICAN CONTRIBUTIONS, MATTAR HAS RECOMMENDED THAT KINGSTON OFFICIALS BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE. PARTICULARLY, HE PERSONALLY HAS RECOMMENDED THAT U.S. REQUESTS FOR TARIFF BINDINGS ON CERTAIN ITEMS BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED. SINCE THEIR TARIFFS ARE CARICOM'S, HE FORESEES A POSSIBLE DIFFICULTY IF OTHER CARICOM MEMBERS DO NOT AGREE. FYI: IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCAL TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO REPRESENTATIVE, T&T REP INDICATED POSSIBLE PROBLEM IN BINDING TARIFFS ON HAND-TOOLS DUE TO POTENTIAL T&T PRODUCTION OF COMPETING ITEMS. END FYI.

4. NATURALLY ITEM OF GREATEST CONCERN TO MATTAR WAS RUM. MTN DEL INDICATED THAT WASHINGTON WAS CONSIDERING RUM ISSUE, BUT AS YET HAD REACHED NO DECISION. MATTAR PERSONALLY SUPPORTS THE POSITION THAT U.S. SHOULD GIVE ALL CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO PROMOTE THEIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WHILE HE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GENEVA 07796 192005Z

UNDERSTANDS THE U.S. SITUATION REGARDING PUERTO RICO, HE BELIEVES THE U.S. COULD CONTINUE HELPING PUERTO RICO AND ALSO GIVE SOME CONCESSIONS TO OTHERS AS WELL.

5. ANOTHER ISSUE CONCERNS GSP. MATTAR RECITED THE POPULAR LDC IDEA THAT GREATER THAN FORMULA TARIFF CUTS WOULD ERODE GSP BENEFITS. ACCORDING TO MATTAR, SOME LDC'S BELIEVE THAT THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO COUNT THE EROSION AS A CONTRIBUTION. MATTAR PERSONALLY DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS NOTION AND, IN FACT, RECOGNIZES THE POSSIBILITY OF LONGER TERM BENEFITS THROUGH MFN TARIFF CUTS.

6. THE JAMAICANS ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE SAFEGUARD CODE AND FRAMEWORK. IN SAFEGUARDS, MATTAR NOTED A GROWING AND "ANTAGONISTIC" ATTITUDE OF LDC'S AGAINST SELECTIVITY. HE HAS NO STRONG FEELINGS EITHER WAY ON THE ISSUE. OF GREATER CONCERN IS ENSURING A PLACE IN MARKETS FOR COUNTRIES THAT ARE NOT TRADITIONAL BUT ARE POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS. HIS INTEREST IN FRAMEWORK IS OF A MORE GENERAL NATURE.

7. DRAFTED BY SHELLEY. MCDONALD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**TAGS:** ETRD, JM, US, MTN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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